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Patent

Attorney Docket # 5085-17

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Uwe JANTSCH et al.

Serial No.: 09/992,952

Filed: November 05, 2001

For: Niobium Alloy And A Hydrogen Permeation  
Membrane Produced From It

Examiner:

Group Art:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

December 18, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

Klaus P. Stoffel

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

December 18, 2001

Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The person signing below certifies that each item of information contained in the present Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present statement.

The enclosed references were cited in a European application corresponding to the present application. A copy of the European Search Report dated November 20, 2001, is also enclosed.

European reference 988 884 discloses a method for producing a tubular hydrogen permeation membrane. This reference corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,267,801, a copy of which is also enclosed.

German reference 198 03 132 discloses a fuel cell having a polymer membrane. Applicants do not have an English language translation of this reference readily available. However, an English language abstract thereof is enclosed.

The present invention defines a specific niobium alloy and a hydrogen permeation membrane produced from it which are not believed to be disclosed by the enclosed references.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

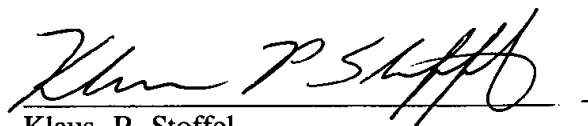
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

If any fees or charges are deemed required at this time in connection with the application, the same may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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